SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Just one question and one answer. Was there a tender or not? That is all want to know. Was there a tender before this transaction? Yes or no?

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Now let me try and satisfy Ms. Karat as well again. Very, very clearly, one transaction *vis-a-vis* Mauritius was done completely by the MMTC. Regarding other four transactions, I have said it before and I am saying it again. It was not a humanitarian aid. It was a commercial transaction. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*... Ms. Karat, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding. Kindly hear my answer before you start saying again, ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please hear my answer. It is a commercial transaction. On a commercial transaction basis, every country has a right to nominate its supplier and it did so in these cases. It so happened that all these four suppliers were also listed with these PSUs in their Expression of Interest that has been tabled. ...*(Inerruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, he has not answered my question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

* 190 [The questioner Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki was absent. For answer *vide* page 39 infra]

Outsourcing of various jobs by Government departments and PSU

*191 SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings are resorting to outsourcing of various jobs, in particular, cleaning and computer related jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether his Ministry is aware about exploitation of employees and workers by private contractors?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Ministries/Departments may outsource certain routine services *e.g.* cleaning, maintenance, moving papers/dak etc. In the Interest of economy and efficiency under Rule 178 of General Financial Rules (GFR). These Rules also provide for the Ministry/Departments intending to outsource services and to prescribe detailed instructions and procedures for this purpose without

contravening the basic guidelines contained in General Financial Rules. These detailed instructions and procedures are expected to take into account statutory provisions in regard to outsourcing of services. Rule 180 (Iv) of GFR stipulates inclusion of the statutory and contractual obligations to be complied with by the contractor. Further, a Central Ministry/Department/Central Public Sector Undertaking can engage contract labour In a job unless and until the same (specified establishment and specific job) are prohibited under provisions of Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970.

(c) In the Central Sphere, the officers of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central)'s organisation conduct Inspections regularly under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 and take action by filing prosecution cases against the defaulting employers and contractors. They also conduct regular inspections under Minimum Wages Act. Whenever violation and payment of less than minimum rates of wages are observed, prosecution/claim cases are launched against the defaulting employers.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, my question is very specific. The Central Government and public sector undertakings are model employers and they should not become party to exploitation of workers. I am of the considered opinion that outsourcing in a very important area of cleaning and computer-related work etc. will amount to giving away the secrets of the Central Government to the private agencies because in various Departments, particularly in the Ministry of Finance, even the computerisation of important work, is given to private agencies. May I know from the hon. Minister how the secrecy of the Government will be maintained when even in such areas outsourcing is permitted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, outsourcing is permitted only for cleaning, carrying the tapals, and taking the papers and other things. For secret things, the outsourcing people are not employed. This is one thing.

दूसरी चीज़, जो outsourcing का वहां पर provision है, वह केवल lower level पर है। जो भी permanent jobs हैं, उसके लिए Government ने outsourcing नहीं किया है। बहुत से, कम से कम 76 notifications ऐसे किए गए हैं, जहां पर अगर permanent job की आवश्यकता है, तो उस जगह पर करना ही चाहिए, ऐसे notification भी बहुत सी जगहों पर किए हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Second supplementary please.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, in my question, I have made it very specific that computer-related jobs are being outsourced and computer-related jobs are not unimportant. They are very important. Once again, I object to that because the work of cleaning is a routine work. If the House is not properly cleaned, no M.P. will enter the House. Parliament Session starts after eight or ten days of work done by the *farash* and cleaners. They are washing it. It is a very important work. So, no work should be underestimated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, the cleaning work cannot be outsourced. It should be given to permanent employees. That is my question.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, now, a Tripartite Task Force for contract workers' issue we have constituted, and that is going into it in detail. उसकी रिपोर्ट आने के बाद हम जो कुछ भी कदम उठाएंगे, वह सदस्यों को बता देंगे।

MR.-CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I am not going into the issue of cleaning. The Central Government and public ; sector undertakings under section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation) Act are supposed to employ contract labour and it is a fact – if wrong, the hon. Minister may confirm – that even in regular production jobs – I am not talking of cleaning – the same machine is being handled, in one shift, by the contract worker and, in another shift, by the regular worker, and this is going on. As on date, the share of contract workers in the productive job in the public sector is more than that of public sector workers. This is a gross illegality. Whether the Government prefers to promote and indulge in the illegality in the Central public sector undertakings years after years and days after days; please confirm.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, the Tripartite Task Force for contract workers' issues we have constituted. And the problems faced by the contract workers were deliberated, in detail, as you know. They are going to submit their report on the 31st December, this month itself. As soon as we get the Report, we will definitely look into the problems and wherever such problems are there, we will definitely try to sort them out one by one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Viplove Thakur. We are running after time!

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर : सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी को बताना चाहती हूं कि outsourcing हो रही है। जैसा कि इन्होंने cleaning और जो manual काम के लिए कहा है, क्या ये इस बात से अवगत हैं कि जो contractor उनको रखता है, वह Government के pattern पर wages नहीं देता है? बाकी चीजें उनको नहीं मिलती हैं, उनको छुट्टी का पैसा नहीं मिलता है, न ही उनके लिए insurance है और न ही कुछ और है। क्या उनकी wages को, जो Government ने तय की हैं, उनको दिलवाने के लिए कोई ऐसा प्रावधान करेंगे, जिससे कि outsourcing में उनको नुक़सान न हो, मैं यह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

New Surrender-Cum-Rehabilitation Policy for Maoists

*181. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: